AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

There has been a lot of pacing discussion recently, and I'm noticing that people don't necessarily understand what exactly pacing is... so, what IS pacing?

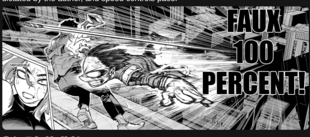
[A Thread]

Aug 25, 2021 · 6:10 PM UTC

💬 10 🔁 46 ❞ 5 ♥ 207

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

Pacing is a term used to describe the speed at which a story is told. This might seem like a strange concept, as 'speed' feels like a visual concept. But the speed is dictated by the author, and speed controls pace.


FAUX 100 PERCENT!
IMPOSSIBLE.

💬 1 🔁 2 ❞ ♥ 34

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

This does not mean that MHA has 'bad pacing' because the kids are still 1st years, or that One Piece is badly paced for being 1,000+ chapters. What matters, pacing wise, are the events that take place within.

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 38

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

Pacing is determined by the length of these events, how fast the action moves, how quickly the reader is provided with info, and much more. Reading this, you might think "oh well a fast pace sounds great!", but the truth is, that depends on the story.

💬 1 🔁 4 ❞ ♥ 34

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Authors use pacing to affect the mood, ideas, and themes of the story, as well as allowing readers to connect to the characters and by proxy the events that surround them. Some genres and stories might just benefit from a slower pace, like most romance series.

💬 1 🔁 4 ❞ ♥ 32

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Faster does not always equal better, and pacing discussions are always going to be surrounded in subjectivity and preferences. What one might find reasonably paced and enjoyable, somebody else might find it rapidly paced and impossible to get invested in.

💬 1 🔁 4 ❞ ♥ 35

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Again, this is subjective! What I find to be good pacing, is striking a cohesive balance. There should be a trade off between fast and slow. Too slow and readers might become uninterested, too fast and readers might struggle to build investment in your story and characters.

💬 1 🔁 4 ❞ ♥ 31

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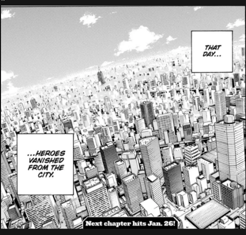
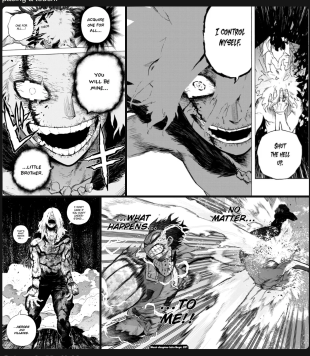
Let's use some examples and in this case we'll use, big surprise, My Hero Academia. In particular, let's use the paranormal liberation war arc and examine some scenes for what might constitute good or bad pacing under our 'balanced' definition.


THAT DAY...
...HEROES VANISHED FROM THE CITY.
Next chapter hits Jan. 26!

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 29

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

The majority of the Shigaraki fight, while action packed, is actually pretty balanced. There are high intensity moments as well as slower, more character defining and thoughtful sections. Dialogue and character moments are used to slow down the pacing a touch.


SHUT THE HELL UP.
I CONTROL MYSELF.
ACQUIRE ONE FOR ALL...
ONE FOR ALL...!
THROB
YOU WILL BE MINE...
...LITTLE BROTHER
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
THAT'S WHAT MAKES US...
...HEROES AND VILLAINS.
NO MATTER...
...WHAT HAPPENS...
...TO ME!!
Next chapter hits Sept. 27!

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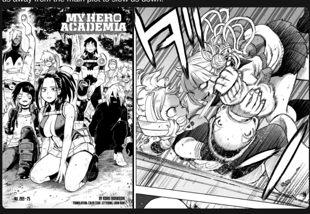
PLW also makes good use of focus shifts to secondary subplots in order to not outpace itself. The Gigantomachia vs 1A fight as well as Toga vs Ochako are simulatenously breather moments, without negatively affecting the pacing. Drawing us away from the main plot to slow us down.


MY HERO ACADEMIA
NO. 283 - 75
BY KOHEI HORIKOSHI
TRANSLATION: CALEB COOK LETTERING: JOHN HUNT

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 37

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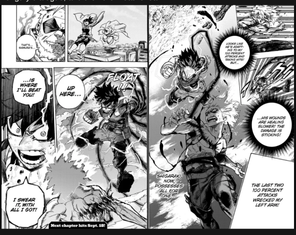
After 1A's attempt to stop Machia, we regain our fast pacing with a high intensity clash with Shiggy after he donut holes Gran Torino. Lots and lots of action, not a lot of lengthy dialogue, and then the Float reveal!


LOOKS LIKE HE'S ADAPT-ING TO MY 100 PERCENT ATTACKS AND TAKING HITS! BUT...
...HIS WOUNDS ARE HEALING SLOWER! THE DAMAGE IS STICKING!
THE LAST TWO 100 PERCENT ATTACKS WRECKED MY LEFT ARM!
SHIGARAKI NOW, POSSESSES ALL FOR ONE...
THAT'S... SHIMURA'S...
FLOAT!!
UP HERE...
...IS WHERE I'LL BEAT YOU!
I SWEAR IT, WITH ALL I GOT!
Next chapter hits Sept. 18!

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 32

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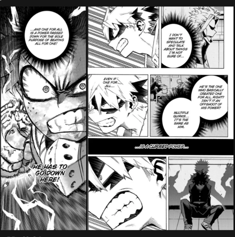
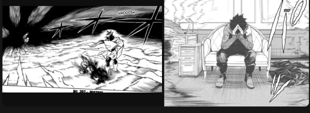
Chapter 284 and 285 slow it down a bit, using flashbacks and character introspection as a method to reduce the pacing a bit. Deku decides to beat Shigaraki no matter what happens to him, and Bakugo reflects on his relationship with Deku.


I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE AND TALK ABOUT THINGS I'M NOT SURE OF...
...AND ONE FOR ALL IS A POWER PASSED DOWN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BEATING ALL FOR ONE!
HE'S THE ONE WHO BASICALLY CREATED ONE FOR ALL, RIGHT? ISN'T IT AN OFFSHOOT OF HIS POWER?
MULTIPLE QUIRKS... IT'S THE SAME AS HIM.
EVEN IF ONE FOR ALL...
...IS A CURSED POWER...
HE HAS TO GO DOWN HERE!

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 34

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

The story feathers the breaks a bit more by having the dialogue and exposition heavy Vestige Realm, and Dabi chapters. Being slower however does not make these chapters weak by any means, and one could argue MHA's methodical pacing is what made these moments so great later on.



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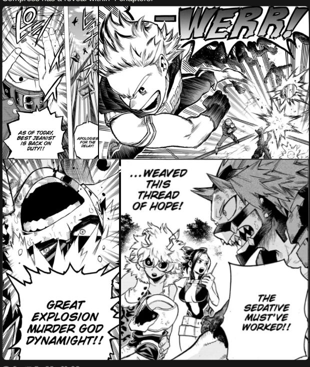
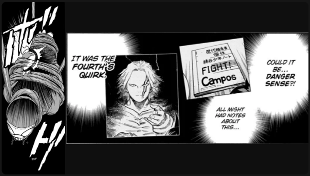
Now we get to where PLW kind of falls apart. Dabi has a climactic character moment, followed by rapid paced, back to back plot line resolutions. Best Jeanist returns, Mirio returns, Bakugos name is revealed, Gigantomachia goes down, and Compress has a reveal within 4 chapters.


-WERR!
APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY!
AS OF TODAY, BEST JEANIST IS BACK ON DUTY!!
THE SEDATIVE MUST'VE WORKED!!
...WEAVED THIS THREAD OF HOPE!
GREAT EXPLOSION MURDER GOD DYNAMIGHT!!

💬 2 🔁 5 ❞ ♥ 38

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

There is nothing wrong with these moments in a vacuum, but the problem is, stories do not exist in vacuums. The fast paced nature of the ending of this arc led to the cheapening of the moments before it, or even of the new moments that come.


ITTT!!
IT WAS THE FOURTH'S QUIRK
FIGHT! Campos
COULD IT BE... DANGER SENSE?!
ALL MIGHT HAD NOTES ABOUT THIS...

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 34

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

MHA imo has always been more character driven and has lent itself to a more slower pace. There is a reason why I've become so used to telling people "It's MHA, just wait". The series loves taking its time and slowly boiling to climactic moments.

💬 1 🔁 5 ❞ 1 ♥ 42

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Progression resolving in the same arc it's established is very uncharacteristic of MHA, as the series is known for what many would call unimportant fluff and long lasting character consequences. Slow Pacing + Build up, can = balanced pacing.

💬 1 🔁 2 ❞ ♥ 28

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These moments happening in rapid succession however, weakens the character moments, growth, or arcs we expected to see and hastily ties them up in a way MHA isn't prone to doing (imo).

💬 1 🔁 4 ❞ ♥ 26

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

And truthfully, the pacing is the main reason PLW isn't a 10/10 to me. It struck a perfectly balanced and healthy level throughout the entire arc only to drop it all at the end and spew plot resolutions onto the pages. Still fantastic tho

💬 1 🔁 4 ❞ ♥ 28

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

So, something being 20 chapters doesn't mean its fast paced, something being 100 chapters doesn't mean its slow paced. What matters is the events inside of the chapters and series! Pro Hero is a fan favourite, and it's like, 4 chapters lol

💬 1 🔁 3 ❞ ♥ 30

AsarathaHS @AsarathaHS 25 Aug 2021

Hope you guys enjoyed. I know this is a pretty non specific thread but idk. Lot of pacing convos going on recently. Let me know if you think I'm wrong, as usual

💬 2 🔁 2 ❞ ♥ 25

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